

**IN THE CLAIMS**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended):      An image information processing apparatus,  
~~capable of entering image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary~~  
~~positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data, said image~~  
~~information processing apparatus comprising:~~

a communication ~~communications means for receiving the unit that receives~~ image  
information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data  
and attribute information pertaining to the image information; and

a controller that decompresses the image data included in the image information when  
~~control means which determines whether or not the attribute information is acquired, when~~  
identifying information is included in ~~and the image data are arranged in a predetermined~~  
~~sequence from~~ header information pertaining to the image information, the identifying  
information indicates that received by said communications means, and which immediately  
~~decompresses the image data included in the image information when the attribute information~~  
and the image data of the image information ~~are determined to be~~ arranged in [[the]] a  
predetermined sequence on a per-page basis.

Claim 2 (Currently Amended):      An image information processing apparatus,  
~~capable of entering image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary~~  
~~positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data, said image~~  
~~information processing apparatus comprising:~~

a controller that generates image information in an image file format which enables  
storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image  
information control means which stores information indicating that attribute information and  
image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence into header information pertaining to the  
image information, and which produces the image information by means of storing the attribute  
information and the image data in a predetermined sequence; and

an output unit that outputs the generated information, wherein the attribute information  
and the image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence, and the  
image information includes identifying information indicating that the attribute information and  
the image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page  
basis in header information of the image information means for outputting the generated image  
information.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended):      The image information processing apparatus  
according to claim 2, wherein

said output ~~means~~ unit exchanges negotiation information in connection with a layout  
sequence of attribute information and image data with a receiver device which receives the  
image information, and

said controller ~~control means~~ generates the image information on the basis of a result of  
the exchanged negotiation information.

Claim 4 (Currently Amended):      An image information processing apparatus,  
~~capable of entering image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary~~  
~~positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data, said image~~  
~~information processing apparatus comprising:~~

a communication ~~communications means~~ unit that receives image information in an  
image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute  
information pertaining to the image information and that ~~which~~ exchanges, with a sender device  
externally connected via a network ~~for sending the image information,~~ negotiation information in  
connection with a layout sequence of the image data and the attribute information, ~~and which~~  
~~receives the image information;~~ and

a controller that ~~control means which immediately~~ decompresses the image data included  
in the image information when ~~upon receipt of a message indicating that~~ the attribute information  
is acquired, when the received negotiation information indicates that the attribute information

and the image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence, ~~as a result of exchange of the negotiation information on a per-page basis.~~

Claim 5 (Currently Amended):      An image information processing apparatus, ~~which produces image information in an image file format, the format enabling storage of image data and attribute information thereof in arbitrary positions, said image information processing apparatus comprising:~~

a controller that generates image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information; and

a communication unit that exchanges, with a receiver device externally connected via a network and is to send the image information, negotiation information in connection with a layout sequence of image data and attribute information and that outputs the generated image information, wherein

the attribute information and the image data of the image information are arranged in a predetermined sequence based on a result of exchange of the negotiation information

~~output means which exchanges with a receiver device which is to send the image information, negotiation information pertaining to a layout sequence of the attribute information and the image data, and which outputs the image information, and~~

~~control means which arranges the attribute information and the image data in a predetermined sequence on the basis of a result of the exchanged negotiation information;~~

~~thereby producing the image information, and which outputs the image information to the output means.~~

Claim 6 (Currently Amended):      A computer-readable storage medium ~~in which is stored that stores~~ a program for causing a computer to perform processes ~~processing~~ for entering and decompressing image information, ~~in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data, the processing comprising:~~

a communication step of receiving the image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information;

a determination step of determining identifying information included in header information pertaining to the entered image information whether or not the attribute information and the image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis from header information pertaining to the entered image information; and

a decompression step of immediately decompressing the image data included in the image information when ~~in the determination step~~ the attribute information and the image data are determined to be arranged in the predetermined sequence on the per-page basis.

Claim 7 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium ~~in which is stored that stores~~ a program for causing a computer to perform ~~processing processes~~ for producing image information, ~~in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data, the processing~~ comprising:

a controller that generates image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information;

a sequential information storage step of storing identifying information into header information of the image information, wherein the identifying information indicating that indicates that the attribute information and the image data are stored in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis into header information of the image information;

an image information generation step of producing the image information by means of storing the attribute information and the image data in the predetermined sequence; and

an output processing step of outputting generated image information.

Claim 8 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium ~~in which is stored that stores~~ a program for causing a computer to perform processes ~~processing~~ for entering and decompressing image information, ~~in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data, the processing comprising:~~

a communication step of receiving the image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information;

a negotiation processing step of conducting negotiations with a sender device externally connected via network in connection with a layout sequence of the image data and the attribute information ~~with a sender device which sends the image information;~~

a decompression step of immediately decompressing the image data included in the received image information, when it is reported identified that the attribute information and the image data are arranged in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis through the negotiation processing step.

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A computer-readable storage medium ~~in which is stored that stores~~ a program for causing a computer to perform processes ~~processing~~ for producing image information, ~~in an image file format which enables storage in arbitrary positions, image data and attribute information pertaining to the image data, the processing~~ comprising:

a controller that generates image information in an image file format which enables storage, in arbitrary positions, of image data and attribute information pertaining to the image information;

a negotiation processing step of conducting negotiations with a receiver device externally connected via network in connection with a layout sequence of the image data and the attribute information ~~with a receiver device which sends the image information;~~

an image information generation step of producing the image information by means of arranging the attribute information and the image data in a predetermined sequence on a per-page basis ~~on the basis of~~ based on a result of negotiations performed in the negotiation processing step; and

an output processing step of outputting produced image information.